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A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
for the
Year ended
31st DECEMBER, 1937 .

NEWHAVEN,
14th June 1938.

NEWHAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ended December 31st 1937.

To the Members of the
Newhaven Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report as
Medical Officer of Health for the year ended December
31st 1937.

During the year 1937 the general health of the
District was good, a notable feature of the year being
the absence of serious infectious disease. Owing to the
incidence of Influenza early in the year the schools were
closed from January 25th to February 6th.

Excluding Tuberculosis only 18 cases of Infectious
Disease were notified, during the year 1937, as compared
with 23 in 1936.

There was a death from Whooping Cough, giving a
Zymotic Death Rate of .14.

The Crude Death Rate was 10.3 as compared with
11.7 in 1936. The comparability factor of .92 gives
an adjusted death rate of 9.47.

The Senile Mortality rate was 52.8 as compared
with 61.7 in 1936.

The chief causes of death were as follows:-
Heart Disease 18, Cerebral Haemorrhage 13, Cancer 6,
Influenza 6, Bronchitis 3 and Pulmonary Tuberculosis 3.

The Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was
.4 the same as in 1936.

The Birth Rate was 15.1 as compared with 12.6 in
1936.

There were two illegitimate births.

There were 7 deaths of infants under one year of
age, five of which deaths were due to congenital debility
or premature birth. This gives an Infantile Mortality
of 66 as compared with 22.5 in 1936.

Five cases of Infectious Disease were treated at
the Isolation Hospital all of which made a good recovery.

My thanks are due to the Members of the Council for
their unfailing courtesy, and also to the Officials for the
willing aid given to me in the performance of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

Newhaven.
June 14th 1938.

RODIE PARKHURST.

General Statistics.

Area.....	1766 Acres.
Population- Census 1931.....	7383
Estimated.....	6989
Number of Inhabited houses.....	1983
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers...	2108
Rateable Value.....	£44281.
Sum produced by a penny rate.....	£173.0.9.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.

Births - Legitimate M - 51 F 53 }
 Illegitimate M - 2 } Total 106.

Still Births M - 3 F- 3 Total 6. All legitimate,
= 56.6 per 1000 Births.

Deaths of Infants under one year per 1000 births = 66.
M - 4 F- 3 Total 7. All legitimate.

Death Rate per 1000 of the population -10.3 Adjusted rate
9.47.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth- Nil.
Deaths from Zymotic Disease 1.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1937.

During the year 1937 there were 18 cases of notifiable disease, excluding Tuberculosis, as against 23 in 1936.

They were as follows:- Pneumonia 9, Scarlet Fever 4, Erysipelas 2, Enteric Fever 2, Puerperal Pyrexia 1, .

The two cases of Enteric Fever were contracted outside the District. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year 1937.

There were two deaths from Pneumonia and three from Tuberculosis.

Table of certain Infectious Diseases notified during the
past ten years.

[illegible]

Table of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year 1937,
and deaths therefrom.

Age periods.	New cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1	1				
5			1	1				
15	1		1	1		2		
25	3	3						
35					1			
45	1	1						
55								
65 & over								
Totals.	5	4	3	3	1	2		

Table of Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during the year 1937, with age periods.

Ages.	Scarlet Fever	Pneu- monia.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Enter Fever	Totals.
Under 1 yr	1	1				2
1-5 yrs	1	1				2
5-15 yrs	2	1				3
15-25 yrs					1	1
25-35 yrs		1	1			2
35-45 yrs					1	1
45-55 yrs		1		2		3
55-65 yrs		1				1
Over 65Yrs		3				3
Totals	4	9	1	2	2	18

4. Causes of sickness.

There was an outbreak of Influenza early in the year which accounted for six deaths: apart from this there was no particular cause of sickness during the year.

The total number of infectious diseases notified was 18 as compared with 23 in 1936. There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year and only four of Scarlet Fever. Two cases of Enteric Fever were notified both of which were contracted outside the District.

The crude Death Rate was 10.3 as compared with 11.7 in 1936, and the adjusted Death Rate was 9.47 as compared with 10.76 in 1936. The Senile mortality was 52.8 as compared with 61.7 in 1936. The Infantile mortality was 66 as compared with 22.5 in 1936. The Birth Rate was 15.1 as compared with 12.6 in 1936. The chief causes of death were as follows:- Heart Disease 18, Cerebral Haemorrhage 13, Cancer 6, Influenza 6, Bronchitis 3 and Pulmonary Tuberculosis 3.

On the whole the health of the District was very satisfactory during the year 1937, the Death Rate showing a decline, and the Birth Rate a rise, and there being a great freedom from Infectious Disease.

5. Summary of Nursing arrangements, Hospital and other Institutions available for the District.

The Newhaven Urban & District Nursing Association supply two Queen's Nurses and one Health Visitor. One Queen's Nurse carries out the general nursing of the Urban District and part of the Rural District, and is also Midwife for such part of the Rural District. The other Queen's Nurse is Midwife for the Town and gives relief duty to the other Nurses when needed. The Health Visitor carries out the health visiting in the Urban District and parts of the Rural District. The Nursing is provided by the Local Authority assisted by a grant from the County Council. There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre; weekly meetings are held where Mothers can attend with their infants for instruction in their upbringing. This centre is carried on by the Health Visitor assisted by the Town Midwife.

Clinics. The Health Visitor attends the School Clinic and also the Dental and Eye Clinic, held at the Schools, under the arrangements made by the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities. A horse-drawn and a Motor Ambulance are provided by the Council for the conveyance of Infectious Diseases to the Isolation Hospital, and an up-to-date Motor Ambulance is provided by the Newhaven Urban & District Nursing Association for the removal of non-infectious and accident cases. This ambulance is available for use in the Urban District and the surrounding Districts.

Hospitals. There is no hospital in the district for the treatment of Tuberculosis. The Isolation Hospital is provided for the reception of cases of infectious disease occurring in the town and Port; this Hospital receives a grant from the County Council under the condition that cases should be received from certain outlying districts should their own hospitals be full.

The Small Pox Hospital is the East Sussex Western Hospital situated at Chailey to which the Newhaven Urban District Council contributes a subsidy.

There is no Maternity nor Children's Hospital in the District, nor any institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate and homeless children.

Isolation Hospital.

This Hospital is in a very satisfactory condition and is efficiently staffed.

During the year 1937 Five cases were under treatment there namely, Scarlet Fever 2, Enteric Fever 2 and Diphtheria Contact 1. All of these cases made a good recovery.

6.

Laboratory work.

No bacteriological or pathological examinations are undertaken locally, but arrangements are in force with the South London Hospital for the examination of all specimens, the charge for which is borne by the Newhaven Urban District Council. All Medical Practitioners in the District are supplied with Diphtheria Anti-toxin free of cost.

7.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

List of Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1890 -Parts i,ii,iii.
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act 1890.
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1907-
Parts iv,vi,viii, ix and x.
Sections 15-22 inclusive and 28, and 31,32 and 33
of Part 2, and Section 81 of Part 7.
Private Street Works Act 1892.

Water Supply.

The District has two sources of Water Supply.

1. From the Newhaven & Seaford Water Company which obtains water from a well sunk into the chalk at Poverty Bottom.
2. From the Southern Railway Company's well at Denton.

Both these waters are of good quality.

Closet Accommodation.

All premises in the District are provided with water closets connected with the sewer, with the following exceptions:-

Premises with Cesspools.

West Pier.....3
Cemetery.....1
Court Farm Cottages...3.
Harbour Heights Estate44.
Added Area.....181

Premises with Earthclosets.

Meeching Court Farm.....	1
New Road.....	17
West Pier.....	24
Oyster Pond Cottages.....	2
Golf House.....	1
Fort Glacis.....	3
Bungalow Church Hill.....	1
East Side Beach Huts.....	42
Denton Village.....	32

Scavenging.

The method of disposal of house refuse now in force is that suggested by the Ministry of Health, whereby refuse is buried daily under the soil. The system works very satisfactorily.

Sanitary Inspection of the District and the work of
the Sanitary Inspector during the year 1937.

The following is the number of houses visited by the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1937.

1. In connection with Infectious Disease....	10
2. Various.....	<u>19.</u>
Total	<u>29.</u>

Abstract from the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The Sanitary Inspector carries out a regular inspection of the District and I subjoin extract from his report.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that during the year 1937 he has made 402 visits in connection with his work. In respect of these visits 49 preliminary notices were served and 4 Statutory notices. Thirty complaints were received during the year all of which were dealt with and the conditions remedied.

I append a table of the number and nature of the inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during the year 1937.

Dwelling House Inspections.....	78
Other Visits in connection with nuisances etc.	58
Common Lodging House Inspections.....	9
Slaughterhouse Visits.....	136
Visits in connection with Offensive Trade.....	3
Bakery Inspections.....	13
Cowshed Inspections.....	9
Other Food Premises Inspected.....	9
Factory & Workshop Inspections.....	22
Smoke observations.....	6
Rat Investigations.....	59

Total Visits..... 402.

In connection with these visits 49 informal and 4 formal notices were served. During the year 45 notices were complied with.

Summary of some of the work executed after the
service of Notice.

Drains repaired or cleared.....	15.
Water closets repaired.....	4.
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed.....	5.
Wash Boilers repaired or renewed.....	3.
Walls and ceilings cleansed.....	25.
Rooms disinfested.....	7.
Dampness remedied.....	14.
Floors repaired.....	5.
Accumulations of rubbish removed.....	7.
Sanitary Conveniences cleansed.....	2.
Yard paving repaired.....	2.
Dustbins provided	1.
Cesspools repaired	1.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled
by Bye-laws and Regulations.

1. Lodging houses.

There is only one Lodging House in the District. This is licensed for the reception of 43 people. A regular inspection of the premises is carried out.

2. Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 7 Cowsheds in the District and 20 Registered retailers and 2 Wholesale traders for the sale of Milk.

Regular inspections of the premises are carried out and their general condition has been found satisfactory. The Sanitary Inspector has made 9 visits to the Cowsheds and given 5 informal notices.

3. Slaughterhouses.

There are 4 Slaughterhouses in the District all of which are registered. Their general condition is clean, but their structural condition cannot be considered satisfactory. The District is in need of a Public Abattoir which would facilitate the inspection of meat at the time of slaughtering: during the year 1937 about 900 animals were slaughtered.

Food.

A. Milk supply.

The premises from which and the conditions under which milk is retailed in the District receive special attention from the Authority. No samples of milk have been taken during the year, but facilities for the sampling of milk are being provided in 1938.

B. Other Foods.

All premises where food is prepared for sale are inspected regularly and their condition found satisfactory. There are 7 bakehouses in the District none of which are underground. Thirteen visits have been made by the Sanitary Inspector and 6 informal notices given.

During the year 1937 the following articles of food were condemned and destroyed.

Cattle.

4 Entire carcasses and organs.....	Tubercular.
6 Heads and Tongues.....	Tubercular.
2 Mesenteries.....	Tubercular.
3 Livers.....	Distomatosis.
1 Tongue.....	Actinomycosis.

Swine.

5 Heads and Collars.....Tubercular.
6 Pairs Lungs.....Congestion.
2 Mesenteries.....Tubercular.
1 Entire carcase and organs.....Swine Fever.

8. The Public Health Officers of the Council consist of a Medical Officer of Health, part time, and a Sanitary Inspector, full time. The Staff of the Isolation Hospital comprises a Matron, an Assistant Nurse, a Probationer Nurse, a Cook and a Caretaker. The Medical Officer of Health is Medical Superintendent.

Vaccination.

This is almost non existent in this District. During the year 1937 the total number of primary vaccinations of children under 14 years of age was only 14.

Disinfection.

Premises where cases of infectious disease have occurred are disinfected with formalin. In cases of Cancer and Tuberculosis disinfection is generally carried out on the death or removal of the patient. Infected bedding and clothing are treated in the steam disinfecter at the Isolation Hospital.

Housing.

The housing condition of the District is generally satisfactory. Seventy-two new houses were erected during the year 1937.

Number of new houses erected during the year 1937:-

(a) Total including numbers given separately under (b)	72
(1) By the Local Authority.....	Nil
(2) By other Local Authorities.....	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons.....	72
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:-	
(1) By the Local Authority.....	Nil
(2) By other bodies or persons.....	Nil

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during year:-

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	28
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose....	78
(2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925...	2
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	26

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... 10

3. Actions under Statutory Powers during the year.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... 1
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By Owners..... Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..... Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By Owners..... 1
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..... Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... Nil
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined. the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

4. Housing Act 1936. Overcrowding.

- (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... 17
- 2. Number of families dwelling therein..... 17
- 3. Number of persons dwelling therein..... 112¹/₂
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... Nil
- (c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... 5
- 2. Number of persons concerned in such cases..... 32
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... Nil.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

No action was taken under these Regulations during the year 1937.

I append a table of General Statistics for the past ten years.

Year	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928
Population estimated to middle of year.	6989	7060	6989	6936	6481	6494	6397	6390	6366	6341
Birth Rate per 1000 of the population	15.1	12.6	13.7	14.7	14.15	13.3	15.15	16.9	16.9	14.6
Death Rate of Infants under 1 yr per 1000 Births.	66.	22.5	10.4	20.0	43.5	35.0	57.5	55.5	74.0	64.5
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the population.	10.3	11.7	12.4	11.5	15.0	10.6	16.5	13.0	13.6	13.0
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 of the population.	9.47	10.76								
Zymotic Death Rate per 1000	0.14	0.28	0.14	0.	0.	0.15	0.	0.15	0.	0.15
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000.	.4	.4	.7	.43	.77	.44	1.5	1.1	.78	1.1
Death Rate from other Respiratory Diseases per 1000	.7	.8	1.6	1.4	1.6	.8	1.5	2.7	2.0	2.5
Senile Mortality : Deaths at 65 & Over as percentage of total deaths.	52.8	61.7	48.0	45.0	62.8	60.0	50.0	43.4	52.5	40.0

Factories and Workshops.

The Medical Officer of Health is requested to report on the condition of Factories and Workshops under the Factory and Workshops Act, in so far as it concerns his department and to forward a copy of his report to the Secretary of State.

The Factories and Workshops in the District have been regularly inspected and found generally to be in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

RODIE PARKHURST,

Medical Officer of Health.

June 14th 1938.

